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About the type

This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, *Illegibility* and *Transparency*. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including Eureka. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

authorize – authorize

Broadcasting Authority 10 law **a** a judicial decision, statute, or rule of law that establishes a principle; precedent **b** legal permission granted to a person to perform a specified act

● **ETYMOLOGY** C14: from French *autorité*, from Latin *authoritas*, from *autor* **AUTHOR**

authorize or **authorise** (ˈɔːθəraɪz) *vb* (tr) 1 to confer authority upon (someone to do something); empower 2 to permit (someone to do or be something) with official sanction: *a dealer authorized by a manufacturer to retail his products* > *authorization* or *authorisation* *n* > *authorizer* or *authoriser* *n*

Authorized Version *n* the Authorized Version an English translation of the Bible published in 1611 under James I. Also known as the: King James Version, King James Bible

authorship (ˈɔːθəʃɪp) *n* 1 the origin or originator of a written work, plan, etc: *a book of unknown authorship* 2 the profession of writing books

Auth. Ver. abbreviation Authorized Version (of the Bible)

autism (ˈɔːtɪzəm) *n* **psychiatry** abnormal self-absorption, usually affecting children, characterized by lack of response to people and actions and limited ability to communicate > *autistic* *adj*, *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C20: from Greek *autos* self + *-ism*

● **USAGE** Rather than talking about an autistic or autistics, it is better to use phrases such as *a person with autism* and *people with autism*

autistic-spectrum disorder *n* **psychiatry** any disorder within the spectrum of autism, such as Asperger's syndrome, characterized by impairment in communication, social interaction, and flexibility of thinking and behaviour. Abbreviation: ASD

auto (ˈɔːtəʊ) *n*, *pl* -tos **US** and **Canadian** informal

1 a short for *automobile* **b** (as modifier): *auto parts* 2 **Indian** informal short for *autorickshaw*

auto- or (sometimes before a vowel) **aut-** combining form 1 self; same; of or by the same one: *autobiography* 2 acting from or occurring within; self-caused: *autohypnosis* 3 self-propelling; automatic: *automobile*

● **ETYMOLOGY** from Greek *autos* self

autoalloamy (ˈɔːtəʊˈlɒɡəmi) *n* the ability of some plants of a species to cross-pollinate and others to self-pollinate

autoantibody (ˈɔːtəʊˈæntɪˌbɒdi) *n*, *pl* -bodies an antibody reacting with an antigen that is a part of the organism in which the antibody is formed

autobahn (ˈɔːtəˌbaɪn) *n* a motorway in German-speaking countries

● **ETYMOLOGY** from German, from *Auto* car + *Bahn* road

autobiographical (ˈɔːtəˌbaɪˈɡræfɪkəl) *adj* 1 of or concerned with one's own life 2 of or relating to an autobiography > *autobiographically* *adv*

autobiography (ˈɔːtəˌbaɪˈɒɡrəfi, ˈɔːtəˌbaɪ-) *n*, *pl* -phies an account of a person's life written or otherwise recorded by that person

> *autobiographer* *n*

autocade (ˈɔːtəˌkeɪd) *n* **US** another name for *motorcade*

autocatalysis (ˈɔːtəʊkəˈtælɪsɪs) *n*, *pl* -ses (-sɪz) the catalysis of a reaction in which the catalyst is one of the products of the reaction

autocephalous (ˈɔːtəʊˈsefələs) *adj* 1 (of an Eastern Christian Church) governed by its own national synods and appointing its own patriarchs or prelates 2 (of a bishop) independent of any higher governing body > *autocephalic* (ˈɔːtəʊsɪˈfælɪk) *adj* > *autocephaly* *n*

autochanger (ˈɔːtəʊˈtʃeɪndʒə) *n* 1 a device in a record player that enables a small stack of records to be dropped automatically onto the turntable one at a time and played separately 2 a record player with such a device

autochthon (ˈɔːtəʊkθən, -θɒn) *n*, *pl* -thons or -thones (-θəˌnɪz) 1 (often plural) one of the earliest known inhabitants of any country; aboriginal 2 an animal or plant that is native to a particular region

● **ETYMOLOGY** C17: from Greek *autokhthōn* from the earth itself, from *auto-* + *kthōn* the earth

autochthonous (ˈɔːtəʊkθənəs), **autochthonic** (ˈɔːtəʊkθənɪk), or **autochthonal** *adj* 1 (of rocks,

deposits, etc) found where they and their constituents were formed. Compare **allochthonous** 2 inhabiting a place or region from earliest known times; aboriginal 3 **physiol** (of some functions, such as heartbeat) originating within an organ rather than from external stimulation > *autochthonism* or *autochthony* *n* > *autochthonously* *adv*

autocidal (ˈɔːtəʊsaɪdəl) *adj* (of insect pest control) effected by the introduction of sterile or genetically altered individuals into the wild population

autoclave (ˈɔːtəˌkleɪv) *n* 1 a strong sealed vessel used for chemical reactions at high pressure 2 an apparatus for sterilizing objects (esp surgical instruments) or for cooking by means of steam under pressure 3 **civil engineering** a vessel in which freshly cast concrete or sand-lime bricks are cured very rapidly in high-pressure steam > *vb* 4 (tr) to put in or subject to the action of an autoclave

● **ETYMOLOGY** C19: from French *auto-* + *-clave*, from Latin *clavis* key

autocorrelation (ˈɔːtəʊkɒrɪˈleɪʃən) *n* **statistics** the condition occurring when successive items in a series are correlated so that their covariance is not zero and they are not independent. Also called: *serial correlation*

autocracy (ˈɔːtəkrəsi) *n*, *pl* -cies 1 government by an individual with unrestricted authority 2 the unrestricted authority of such an individual 3 a country, society, etc, ruled by an autocrat

autocrat (ˈɔːtəkræt) *n* 1 a ruler who possesses absolute and unrestricted authority 2 a domineering or dictatorial person

autocratic (ˈɔːtəkrætɪk) *adj* 1 of or relating to an absolute and unrestricted ruler 2 domineering or dictatorial > *autocratically* *adv*

autocross (ˈɔːtəʊkrɒs) *n* a form of motor sport in which cars race over a half-mile circuit of rough grass. See also *motocross*, *rallycross*

Autocue (ˈɔːtəʊkjuː) *n* **trademark** an electronic television prompting device whereby a prepared script, unseen by the audience, is enlarged line by line for the speaker. **US** and **Canadian** name (trademark): *Teleprompter*

autocutie (ˈɔːtəʊkjuːti) *n* informal a young and attractive but inexperienced female television presenter

● **ETYMOLOGY** C20: from *AUTOCUE* + *CUTIE*

autocycle (ˈɔːtəʊsaɪkəl) *n* **obsolete** a bicycle powered or assisted by a small engine

auto-da-fé (ˈɔːtəʊdəˈfeɪ) *n*, *pl* *autos-da-fé* 1 *history* a ceremony of the Spanish Inquisition including the pronouncement and execution of sentences passed on sinners or heretics 2 the burning to death of people condemned as heretics by the Inquisition

● **ETYMOLOGY** C18: from Portuguese, literally: act of the faith

autodestruct (ˈɔːtəʊdɪˈstrækt) *adj* also

autodestructive 1 likely to or possessing the power to destroy or obliterate itself or its possessor; *autodestruct mechanism* > *vb* (intr) 2 (of a missile, machine, etc) to destroy itself

autodidact (ˈɔːtəʊdaɪdækt) *n* a person who is self-taught > *autodidactic* *adj*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C16: from Greek *autodidakτος* self-taught, from *autos* self + *didaskō* to teach

autodyne (ˈɔːtəʊdaɪn) *adj* **electronics** denoting or relating to an electrical circuit in which the same elements and valves are used as oscillator and detector

autoecious or *sometimes* **US** **autecious** (ˈɔːtɪʃəs) *adj* 1 (of parasites, esp the rust fungi) completing the entire life cycle on a single species of host. Compare **heteroecious** 2 (of plants, esp mosses) having male and female reproductive organs on the same plant > *autoecism* or *sometimes* **US** *autecism* *n*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C19: from *AUTO-* + *-ecious*, from Greek *oikia* house

autoeroticism (ˈɔːtəʊˈrɒtɪˌsɪzəm) or **autoerotism** (ˈɔːtəʊˈerəˌtɪzəm) *n* **psychol** the arousal and use of one's own body as a sexual object, as through masturbation > *autoerotic* *adj*

autoexposure (ˈɔːtəʊˈspəʊʒə) *n* another name for *automatic exposure*

autofocus (ˈɔːtəʊˌfəʊkəs) *n* another name for *automatic focus*

autogamy (ˈɔːtəɡæmi) *n* 1 self-fertilization in flowering plants 2 a type of sexual reproduction, occurring in some protozoans, in which the uniting gametes are derived from the same cell

> *autogamous* or *autogamic* (ˈɔːtəˈɡæmɪk) *adj*

autogenesis (ˈɔːtəʊˈdʒenɪsɪs) or **autogeny** (ˈɔːtəʊdʒɪni) *n* another word for *abiogenesis* (sense 1) > *autogenetic* (ˈɔːtəʊdʒɪˈnetɪk) *adj*

autogenic training (ˈɔːtəʊˈdʒenɪk) *n* a technique for reducing stress through mental exercises to produce physical relaxation. Also called: *autogenics*

autogenous (ˈɔːtəʊdʒɪnəs) *adj* 1 **a** originating within the body. Compare **heterogenous** **b** denoting a vaccine made from bacteria obtained from the patient's own body 2 self-generated; self-produced 3 denoting a weld in which the filler metal and the parent metal are of similar composition

> *autogenously* *adv*

autogiro or **autogyro** (ˈɔːtəʊˈdʒaɪrəʊ) *n*, *pl* -ros a self-propelled aircraft supported in flight mainly by unpowered rotating horizontal blades. Also called: *gyroplane*. Compare *helicopter*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C20: originally a trademark

autograft (ˈɔːtəˌɡraʊt) *n* **surgery** a tissue graft obtained from one part of a patient's body for use on another part

autograph (ˈɔːtəˌɡraʊf, -græf) *n* 1 **a** a handwritten signature, esp that of a famous person **b** (as modifier): *an autograph album* 2 a person's handwriting 3 **a** a book, document, etc, handwritten by its author; original manuscript; holograph **b** (as modifier): *an autograph letter* > *vb* (tr) 4 to write one's signature on or in; sign 5 to write with one's own hand > *autographic* (ˈɔːtəˌɡræfɪk) or *autographical* *adj* > *autographically* *adv*

● **ETYMOLOGY** C17: from Late Latin, from Greek *autographos*, from *autos* self + *graphein* to write

autography (ˈɔːtəˌɡraʊfi) *n* 1 the writing of something in one's own handwriting; something handwritten 2 the precise reproduction of an illustration or of writing

Autoharp (ˈɔːtəʊˌhɑːp) *n* **trademark** a zither-like musical instrument used in country-and-western music, equipped with button-controlled dampers that can prevent selected strings from sounding, thus allowing chords to be played. It is plucked with the fingers or a plectrum

autohypnosis (ˈɔːtəʊhɪpˈnəʊsɪs) *n* **psychol** the process or result of self-induced hypnosis > *autohypnotic* (ˈɔːtəʊhɪpˈnɒtɪk) *adj*

> *autohypnotically* *adv*

autoicous (ˈɔːtəʊɪkəs) *adj* (of plants, esp mosses) having male and female reproductive organs on the same plant

● **ETYMOLOGY** C19: from *AUTO-* + Greek *oikos* dwelling

autoimmune (ˈɔːtəʊˈɪmjʊn) *adj* (of a disease) caused by the action of antibodies produced against substances normally present in the body

> *autoimmunity* *n*

autoinfection (ˈɔːtəʊɪnˈfekʃən) *n* infection by a pathogenic agent already within the body or infection transferred from one part of the body to another

autoinoculation (ˈɔːtəʊˌnɒkjuˈleɪʃən) *n* the inoculation of microorganisms (esp viruses) from one part of the body into another, usually in the form of a vaccine

autointoxication (ˈɔːtəʊɪnˌtɒksɪˈkeɪʃən) *n* self-poisoning caused by absorption of toxic products originating within the body. Also called: *autotoxaemia*

autoionization or **autoionisation** (ˈɔːtəʊˌaɪənəɪˈzeɪʃən) *n* **physics** the process in which spontaneous decay of excited atoms or molecules results in emission of electrons, rather than photons

autojumble (ˈɔːtəʊˌdʒʌmbəl) *n* a sale of second-hand car parts, esp for car enthusiasts

autokinetic (ˈɔːtəʊkɪˈnetɪk, -kaɪ-) *adj* automatically self-moving

autokinetic phenomenon *n* *psychol* the apparent movement of a fixed point of light when observed in a darkened room. The effect is produced by small eye movements for which the brain is unable to compensate, having no other reference points

autoloading (ˌɔːtəʊləʊdɪŋ) *adj* self-loading

autologous (ˌɔːtələgəs) *adj* (of a tissue graft, blood transfusion, etc) originating from the recipient rather than from a donor

Autolycus¹ (ˌɔːtəˈlɪkəs) *n* a crater in the NW quadrant of the moon about 38 km in diameter and 3000 m deep

Autolycus² (ˌɔːtəˈlɪkəs) *n* *Greek myth* a thief who stole cattle from his neighbour Sisyphus and prevented him from recognizing them by making them invisible

autolyse or **US autolyze** (ˌɔːtəˈlaɪz) *vb* *biochem* to undergo or cause to undergo autolysis

autolysin (ˌɔːtəˈlaɪsɪn, ˌɔːtəˈli-) *n* any agent that produces autolysis

autolysis (ˌɔːtəˈlɪsɪs) *n* the destruction of cells and tissues of an organism by enzymes produced by the cells themselves > **autolytic** (ˌɔːtəˈlɪtɪk) *adj*

■ **ETymology** c20: via German from Greek *autos* self + *lysis* loosening, release

automat (ˌɔːtəˈmæt) *n* 1 Also called: **vending machine** a machine that automatically dispenses goods, such as cigarettes, when money is inserted 2 chiefly US an area or room, sometimes having restaurant facilities, where food and other goods are supplied from vending machines

automata (ˌɔːtəˈmætə) *n* a plural of **automaton**

automata theory *n* the formal study of the power of computation of abstract machines

automate (ˌɔːtəˈmeɪt) *vb* to make (a manufacturing process, factory, etc) automatic, or (of a manufacturing process, etc) to be made automatic

automated teller machine *n* a computerized cash dispenser. Abbreviation: **ATM**

automatic (ˌɔːtəˈmætɪk) *adj* 1 performed from force of habit or without conscious thought; lacking spontaneity; mechanical: *an automatic smile* 2 **a** (of a device, mechanism, etc) able to activate, move, or regulate itself **b** (of an act or process) performed by such automatic equipment 3 (of the action of a muscle, gland, etc) involuntary or reflex 4 occurring as a necessary consequence; *promotion is automatic after a year* 5 (of a firearm) **a** utilizing some of the force of or gas from each explosion to eject the empty shell case, replace it with a new one, and fire continuously until release of the trigger. Compare **semiautomatic** (sense 2). See also **machine** (sense 5) > **n** 6 an automatic firearm 7 a motor vehicle having automatic transmission 8 a machine that operates automatically > **auto/matically** *adv* > **automaticity** (ˌɔːtəʊməˈtɪsɪtɪ) *n*

■ **ETymology** c18: from Greek *automatos* acting independently

automatic camera *n* a camera in which the lens aperture or the shutter speed or both are automatically adjusted to the prevailing conditions

automatic door *n* a self-opening door

automatic exposure *n* the automatic adjustment of the lens aperture and shutter speed of a camera by a control mechanism. Also called: **autoexposure**

automatic focus *n* **a** a system in a camera which automatically adjusts the lens so that the object being photographed is in focus, often one using infrared light to estimate the distance of the object from the camera **b** (as modifier); *automatic-focus lens*. Abbreviation: **AF**. Also called: **autofocus**

automatic frequency control *n* a system in a radio or television receiver by which the tuning of an incoming signal is accurately maintained. Abbreviation: **AFC**

automatic gain control *n* control of a radio receiver in which the gain varies inversely with the magnitude of the input, thus maintaining the output at an approximately constant level. Abbreviation: **AGC**

automatic pilot *n* 1 Also called: **autopilot** a device that automatically maintains an aircraft on a preset

course 2 on **automatic pilot** *informal* acting without conscious thought because of tiredness, shock, or familiarity with the task being performed

automatic repeat *n* a key on the keyboard of a typewriter, computer, etc, which, when depressed continuously, produces the character repeatedly until the key is released

automatic transmission *n* a transmission system in a motor vehicle, usually incorporating a fluid clutch, in which the gears change automatically

automatic vending *n* selling goods by vending machines

automation (ˌɔːtəˈmeɪʃən) *n* 1 the use of methods for controlling industrial processes automatically, esp by electronically controlled systems, often reducing manpower 2 the extent to which a process is so controlled

automation (ˌɔːtəˈmæˌtɪzəm) *n* 1 the state or quality of being automatic; mechanical or involuntary action 2 *law, philosophy* the explanation of an action, or of action in general, as determined by the physiological states of the individual, admissible in law as a defence when the physiological state is involuntary, as in sleepwalking 3 *psychol* the performance of actions, such as sleepwalking, without conscious knowledge or control 4 the suspension of consciousness sought or achieved by certain artists and writers to allow free flow of uncensored thoughts > **automatist** *n*

automatize or **automatise** (ˌɔːtəˈmæˌtaɪz) *vb* to make (a process, etc) automatic or (of a process, etc) to be made automatic > **automatization** or **automatisation** *n*

automaton (ˌɔːtəˈmætən, -tən) *n*, *pl* -tons or -ta (-tə) 1 a mechanical device operating under its own hidden power; robot 2 a person who acts mechanically or leads a routine monotonous life > **auto/matous** *adj*

■ **ETymology** c17: from Latin, from Greek, from *automatos* spontaneous, self-moving

autometer (ˌɔːtəʊˈmɪtə) *n* a small device inserted in a photocopier to enable the process of copying to begin and to record the number of copies made

automobile (ˌɔːtəˈmɔːbɪl) *n* another word (esp US) for **car** (sense 1) > **automobilist** (ˌɔːtəˈmɔːbɪˈlɪst, -ˈmɔːbɪlɪst) *n*

automobilia (ˌɔːtəˈmɔːbɪˈlɪə) *pl n* items connected with cars and motoring of interest to the collector

automotive (ˌɔːtəˈmɔːtv) *adj* 1 relating to motor vehicles 2 self-propelling

autonomic (ˌɔːtəˈnɒmɪk) *adj* 1 occurring involuntarily or spontaneously 2 of or relating to the autonomic nervous system 3 Also: **autonomous** (of plant movements) occurring as a result of internal stimuli > **auto/nomically** *adv*

autonomic nervous system *n* the section of the nervous system of vertebrates that controls the involuntary actions of the smooth muscles, heart, and glands. It has two divisions: the sympathetic and the parasympathetic. Compare **somatic nervous system**

autonomics (ˌɔːtəˈnɒmɪks) *n* (functioning as singular) *electronics* the study of self-regulating systems for process control

autonomous (ˌɔːtəˈnɒməs) *adj* 1 (of a community, country, etc) possessing a large degree of self-government 2 of or relating to an autonomous community 3 independent of others 4 *philosophy* **a** acting or able to act in accordance with rules and principles of one's own choosing **b** (in the moral philosophy of Kant, of an individual's will) directed to duty rather than to some other end. Compare **heteronomous** (sense 3). See also **categorical imperative** 5 *biology* existing as an organism independent of other organisms or parts 6 a variant spelling of **autonomic** (sense 3) > **autonomously** *adv*

■ **ETymology** c19: from Greek *autonomos* living under one's own laws, from *auto-* + *nomos* law

autonomy (ˌɔːtəˈnɒmətɪ) *n*, *pl* -mies 1 the right or state of self-government, esp when limited 2 a state, community, or individual possessing autonomy 3 freedom to determine one's own

actions, behaviour, etc 4 *philosophy* **a** the doctrine that the individual human will is or ought to be governed only by its own principles and laws. See also **categorical imperative** **b** the state in which one's actions are autonomous > **auto/nomist** *n*

■ **ETymology** c17: from Greek *autonomia* freedom to live by one's own laws; see **autonomous**

autophyte (ˌɔːtəˈfaɪt) *n* an autotrophic plant, such as any green plant > **autophytic** (ˌɔːtəˈfɪtɪk) *adj* > **auto/phytically** *adv*

autopilot (ˌɔːtəˈpaɪlət, -təʊ-) *n* short for **automatic pilot**

autopista (ˌɔːtəˈpɪstə) *n* a Spanish motorway

■ **ETymology** from Spanish: *auto* (mobile) track

autoplasty (ˌɔːtəˈplæstɪ) *n* surgical repair of defects by grafting or transplanting tissue from the patient's own body > **auto/plastic** *adj*

autopolyploid (ˌɔːtəʊˈpɒlɪˌpɒɪd) *adj* 1 (of cells, organisms, etc) having more than two sets of haploid chromosomes inherited from a single species > **n** 2 an organism or cell of this type > See also **allopolyploid**, **polyploid** > **auto/polyploidy** *n*

autopsy (ˌɔːtəpsɪ, ˌɔːtəp-) *n*, *pl* -sies 1 Also called: **necropsy**, **postmortem examination** dissection and examination of a dead body to determine the cause of death 2 an eyewitness observation 3 any critical analysis

■ **ETymology** c17: from New Latin *autopsia*, from Greek: seeing with one's own eyes, from *auto-* + *opsis* sight

autoput (ˌɔːtəʊˈpʊt) *n* a motorway in the former Yugoslavia

■ **ETymology** from Serbo-Croat: *auto* (mobile) road

autoradiograph (ˌɔːtəʊˈreɪdɪəˌɡrɑːf, -græf) *n* a photograph showing the distribution of a radioactive substance in a specimen. The photographic plate is exposed by radiation from the specimen. Also called: **radioautograph** > **autoradiographic** (ˌɔːtəʊˈreɪdɪəˌɡræfɪk) *adj* > **autoradiography** (ˌɔːtəʊˈreɪdɪəˌɡræfɪ) *n*

auto-repeat *n* 1 *computing* a feature of computer keys whereby a character is generated repeatedly as long as the user holds down the key in question > *vb* (*intr*) 2 *computing* (of a computer key) to go on automatically regenerating a character

autorickshaw (ˌɔːtəʊˈrɪkʃəʊ) *n* (in India) a light three-wheeled vehicle driven by a motorcycle engine

autorotation (ˌɔːtəʊˈreɪtəʃən) *n* the continuous rotation of a body in an airflow, such as that of the rotor blades of a helicopter in an unpowered descent

autoroute (ˌɔːtəʊˈruːt) *n* a French motorway

■ **ETymology** from French, from *auto* car + *route* road

autosome (ˌɔːtəˈsəʊm) *n* any chromosome that is not a sex chromosome > **auto/somal** *adj*

autospore (ˌɔːtəʊˈspɔː) *n* a nonmotile algal spore that develops adult characteristics before being released

autostability (ˌɔːtəʊˈstæbɪlɪtɪ) *n* the property of being stable either as a result of inherent characteristics or of built-in devices

autostrada (ˌɔːtəʊˈstrɑːdə) *n* an Italian motorway

■ **ETymology** from Italian, from *auto* car + *strada* road

autosuggestion (ˌɔːtəʊsəˈdʒestʃən) *n* a process of suggestion in which the person unconsciously supplies or consciously attempts to supply the means of influencing his own behaviour or beliefs > **autosug/gestive** *adj*

autotimer (ˌɔːtəʊˈtaɪmə) *n* a device for turning a system on and off automatically at times predetermined by advance setting

autotomize or **autotomise** (ˌɔːtəˈtəɪz) *vb* to cause (a part of the body) to undergo autotomy

autotomy (ˌɔːtəˈtɒmətɪ) *n*, *pl* -mies the casting off by an animal of a part of its body, to facilitate escape when attacked > **autotomic** (ˌɔːtəˈtɒmɪk) *adj*

autotoxaemia or **US autotoxemia** (ˌɔːtəʊtɒkˈsiːmiə) *n* another name for **auto/intoxication**

autotoxin (ˌɔːtəʊˈtɒksɪn) *n* any poison or toxin formed in the organism upon which it acts. See **auto/intoxication** > **auto/toxic** *adj*

aeroplane spin *n* a wrestling attack in which a wrestler lifts his opponent onto his shoulders and spins around, leaving the opponent dizzy

aerosol ('eərə,sɒl) *n* 1 a colloidal dispersion of solid or liquid particles in a gas; smoke or fog 2 a substance, such as a paint, polish, or insecticide, dispensed from a small metal container by a propellant under pressure 3 Also called: *air spray* such a substance together with its container

● **ETymology** C20: from AERO- + SOL(UTION)

aerospace ('eərə,speɪs) *n* 1 the atmosphere and space beyond 2 (modifier) of or relating to rockets, missiles, space vehicles, etc, that fly or operate in aerospace: the aerospace industry

aerosphere ('eərə,sfɪə) *n* archaic the entire atmosphere surrounding the earth

aerostat ('eərə,stæt) *n* a lighter-than-air craft, such as a balloon > *aero*static or *aero*static(al) *adj*

● **ETymology** C18: from French *aérostat*, from AERO- + Greek -statos standing

aerostatics ('eərə'stætiks) *n* (functioning as singular) 1 the study of gases in equilibrium and bodies held in equilibrium in gases. Compare *aerodynamics* 2 the study of lighter-than-air craft, such as balloons

aerostation ('eərə,steɪʃən) *n* the science of operating lighter-than-air craft

aerostructure ('eərə'strʌktʃən) *n* any separately manufactured unit, component, or section of an aircraft or other vehicle capable of flight

aerothermodynamics ('eərə,θɜːməʊdɑːnæmɪks) *n* (functioning as singular) the study of the exchange of heat between solids and gases, esp of the heating effect on aircraft flying through the air at very high speeds > *aero*thermodynamic *adj*

aerugo ('iːrʉːgəʊ) *n* (esp of old bronze) another name for *verdigris* > *aeruginous* ('iːrʉːdʒɪnəs) *adj*

● **ETymology** C18: from Latin, from *aes* copper, bronze

aery ('eəri,'eəri) *adj* poetic 1 a variant spelling of *airy* 2 lofty, insubstantial, or visionary

● **ETymology** C16: via Latin from Greek *aërios*, from *aēr* AIR

aery² ('eəri,'eəri) *n*, *pl aeries* a variant spelling of *eyrie*

Aeschylus ('iːskələs) *n* ?525–?456 BC, Greek dramatist, regarded as the father of Greek tragedy. Seven of his plays are extant, including *Seven Against Thebes*, *The Persians*, *Prometheus Bound*, and the trilogy of the *Oresteia* > *Aeschylean* ('iːskəliːən) *adj*

Aesculapian ('iːskjʉːlɪpiən) *adj* of or relating to Aesculapio or the art of medicine

Aesculapius ('iːskjʉːlɪpiəs) *n* the Roman god of medicine or healing. Greek counterpart: Asclepius

Aesir ('eɪsɪə) *pl n* the chief gods of Norse mythology dwelling in Asgard

● **ETymology** Old Norse, literally: gods

Aesop ('iːsɒp) *n* ?620–?564 BC, Greek author of fables in which animals are given human characters and used to satirize human failings > *Aesopian* or *Aesopic* *adj*

aesthesia or **US esthesia** ('iːθɪziə) *n* the normal ability to experience sensation, perception, or sensitivity

● **ETymology** C20: back formation from ANAESTHESIA

aesthete or **US esthete** ('iːθɪt) *n* a person who has or who affects a highly developed appreciation of beauty, esp in poetry and the visual arts

● **ETymology** C19: back formation from AESTHETICS

aesthetic ('iːθetɪk, -ɪs-) or sometimes **US esthetic** *adj* also *aesthetical* or sometimes **US esthetical** 1 connected with aesthetics or its principles 2 a relating to pure beauty rather than to other considerations

b artistic or relating to good taste: an *aesthetic consideration* > *n* 3 a principle of taste or style adopted by a particular person, group, or culture: the *Bauhaus aesthetic of functional modernity* > *aes*thetically or sometimes *US es*thetically *adv*

aesthetician or sometimes **US esthetician** ('iːθɪtʃən, -ɪs-) *n* 1 a student of aesthetics 2 another name for *beauty therapist*

aestheticism or sometimes **US estheticism** ('iːθetɪzɪzəm, -ɪs-) *n* 1 the doctrine that aesthetic principles are of supreme importance and that

works of art should be judged accordingly

2 sensitivity to beauty, esp in art, music, literature, etc

aesthetic labour *n* workers employed by a company for their appearance or accent, with the aim of promoting the company's image

aesthetics or sometimes **US esthetics** ('iːθetɪks, -ɪs-) *n* (functioning as singular) 1 the branch of philosophy concerned with the study of such concepts as beauty, taste, etc 2 the study of the rules and principles of art

● **ETymology** C18: from Greek *aisthētikos* perceptible by the senses, from *aisthētai* to perceive

aestival or **US estival** ('iːstaɪvəl, 'estɪ-) *adj* rare of or occurring in summer

● **ETymology** C14: from French, from Late Latin *aestivālis*, from Latin *aestas* summer

aestivate or **US estivate** ('iːstɪ'veɪt, 'es-) *vb* (intr) 1 to pass the summer 2 (of animals such as the lungfish) to pass the summer or dry season in a dormant condition. Compare *hibernate*

> *aestivator* or *US estivator* *n*

● **ETymology** C17: from Latin *aestivātus*, from *aestivāre* to stay during the summer, from *aestas* summer

aestivation or **US estivation** ('iːstɪ'veɪʃən, -ɪs-) *n* 1 the act or condition of aestivating 2 the arrangement of the parts of a flower bud, esp the sepals and petals

aet. or **aetat.** abbreviation *aetatis*

● **ETymology** Latin: at the age of

Æthelred I ('æθəl,red) *n* a variant spelling of *Ethelred I*

Æthelred II *n* a variant spelling of *Ethelred II*

aether ('iːθə) *n* a variant spelling of *ether*

(senses 3–5)

aethereal ('iːθiəriəl) *adj* a variant spelling of *ethereal* (senses 1–3) > *aethereality* ('iːθiəriːælɪti) *n*

> *aethereally* *adv*

aetiological or **etiological** ('iːtɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl) *adj* 1 of or relating to aetiology 2 philosophy (of an explanation) in terms of causal precedents, as opposed, for instance, to the intentions of an agent

> *aetio*logically or *etio*logically *adv*

aetiology or **etiology** ('iːtɪ'blɒdʒɪ) *n*, *pl -gies* 1 the philosophy or study of causation 2 the study of the causes of diseases 3 the cause of a disease

> *aetio*logist or *etio*logist *n*

● **ETymology** C16: from Late Latin *aetologia*, from Greek *aitologia*, from *aitia* cause

Aetna ('etnə) *n* the Latin name for Mount Etna

Aetolia ('iːtəʊliə) *n* a mountainous region forming (with the region of Acarnania) a department of W central Greece, north of the Gulf of Patras: a powerful federal state in the 3rd century BC. Chief city: Missolonghi. Pop. (with Acarnania): 219 092 (2001). Area: 5461 sq km (2108 sq miles)

AEW abbreviation airborne early warning (aircraft)

af the internet domain name for Afghanistan

AF abbreviation 1 Anglo-French 2 automatic focus 3 audio frequency 4 (in Canada) Air Force

a.f. abbreviation audio frequency

A/F abbreviation (in auction catalogues, etc) as found

AFAIK text messaging abbreviation as far as I know

afar ('aːfə) *adv* 1 at, from, or to a great distance > *n*

2 a great distance (esp in the phrase *from afar*)

● **ETymology** C14: *a fer*, altered from earlier *on fer* and *fer*; see *A-*, *FER*

Afars and the Issas ('aːfɑːz, 'ɪsɑːs) *n* Territory of the Afars and the Issas a former name (1967–77) of Djibouti

AFB abbreviation (US) Air Force Base

AFC abbreviation 1 Air Force Cross 2 Association

Football Club 3 automatic flight control

4 automatic frequency control

afear or **afear** ('æfiəd) *adj* (postpositive) an archaic or dialect word for *afraid*

● **ETymology** Old English *āfæred*, from *afæran* to frighten, from *færan* to *FEAR*

afebrile ('æfɪbrɪl, -ɪr) *adj* without fever

aff (æf) *Scot* > *adv* 1 off > *prep* 2 off 3 from; out of

● **ETymology** Old English of; Old Norse *af*

affable ('æfəbəl) *adj* 1 showing warmth and friendliness; kindly; mild; benign 2 easy to converse

with; approachable; amicable > *affa*bility *n*

> *affa*bly *adv*

● **ETymology** C16: from Latin *affābilis* easy to talk to, from *affāri* to talk to, from *ad-* to + *fāri* to speak; compare *FABLE*, *FATE*

affair ('æfə) *n* 1 a thing to be done or attended to; matter; business: *this affair must be cleared up* 2 an event or happening: a *strange affair* 3 (qualified by an adjective or descriptive phrase) something previously specified, esp a man-made object; thing: *our house is a tumbledown affair* 4 a sexual relationship between two people who are not married to each other

> See also *affairs*

● **ETymology** C13: from Old French, from *à faire* to do

affaire French (æfer) *n* a love affair

affaire d'amour French (æfer damur) *n*, *pl affaires d'amour* (æfer damur) a love affair

affaire de cœur French (æfer də koer) *n*, *pl affaires de cœur* (æfer də koer) an affair of the heart; love affair

affaire d'honneur French (æfer donœr) *n*, *pl affaires d'honneur* (æfer donœr) a duel

affairs ('æfəz) *pl n* 1 personal or business interests: *his affairs were in disorder* 2 matters of public interest: *current affairs*

affect¹ *vb* ('æfekt) (tr) 1 to act upon or influence, esp in an adverse way: *damp affected the sparking plugs* 2 to move or disturb emotionally or mentally: *her death affected him greatly* 3 (of pain, disease, etc) to attack > *n* ('æfekt, 'æfekt) 4 psychol the emotion associated with an idea or set of ideas. See also *affection*

● **ETymology** C17: from Latin *affectus*, past participle of *afficere* to act upon, from *ad-* to + *ficere* to do

affect² ('æfekt) *vb* (mainly tr) 1 to put on an appearance or show off; make a pretence of: *to affect ignorance* 2 to imitate or assume, esp pretentiously: *to affect an accent* 3 to have or use by preference: *she always affects funeral clothing* 4 to adopt the character, manner, etc, of: *he was always affecting the politician*

5 (of plants or animals) to live or grow in: *penguins affect an arctic climate* 6 to incline naturally or habitually towards: *falling drops of liquid affect roundness*

● **ETymology** C15: from Latin *affectāre* to strive after, pretend to have; related to *afficere* to *AFFECT*¹

affection ('æfek'teɪʃən) *n* 1 an assumed manner of speech, dress, or behaviour, esp one that is intended to impress others 2 (often foll by *of*) deliberate pretence or false display: *affection of nobility*

● **ETymology** C16: from Latin *affection-* an aiming at, striving after, from *affectāre*; see *AFFECT*¹

affected¹ ('æfektɪd) *adj* (usually postpositive) 1 deeply moved, esp by sorrow or grief: *he was greatly affected by her departure* 2 changed, esp detrimentally

● **ETymology** C17: from *AFFECT*¹ + *-ED*

affected² ('æfektɪd) *adj* 1 behaving, speaking, etc, in an artificial or assumed way, esp in order to impress others 2 feigned: *affected indifference* 3 archaic inclined; disposed > *affectedly* *adv* > *affectedness* *n*

● **ETymology** C16: from *AFFECT*² + *-ED*

affecting ('æfekɪŋ) *adj* evoking feelings of pity, sympathy, or pathos; moving > *affectedly* *adv*

affection ('æfekʃən) *n* 1 a feeling of fondness or tenderness for a person or thing; attachment

2 (often plural) emotion, feeling, or sentiment: *to play on a person's affections* 3 pathol any disease or pathological condition

4 psychol any form of mental functioning that involves emotion. See also *affect*¹ (sense 1) 5 the act of affecting or the state of being affected 6 archaic inclination or disposition

> *affectional* *adj*

● **ETymology** C13: from Latin *affection-* disposition, from *afficere* to *AFFECT*¹

affectionate ('æfekʃənət) *adj* having or displaying tender feelings, affection, or warmth: *an affectionate mother*; *an affectionate letter* > *affectionately* *adv*

affective ('æfektɪv) *adj* 1 psychol relating to affects 2 concerned with or arousing the emotions or affection > *affectivity* ('æfek'tɪvɪti) or *affectiveness* *n*

affective disorder *n* any mental disorder, such as depression or mania, that is characterized by abnormal disturbances of mood

affective psychosis *n* a severe mental disorder characterized by extreme moods of either depression or mania